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TEMP Max 37 | Min 24 | Humidity 37% Partly Cloudy Sensex 74,482 | Nifty 22,604 | Gold 70,673 | Silver 79,520 | Dollar 83.46 | Euro 89.34 | GBP 104.52

‘Solution for gaps in street lighting has to be multifold’: Residents BM spoke to highlight facets of menace

GHOSTS IN DARKNESS

‘Missing streetlight poles, lagging maintenance work’

| Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As the population of Bengaluru continues to rise year by year, the menace of inadequate urban streetlighting seems to worsen. Dark spots in the city turn havens for crime and accidents.

In some places, streetlight poles are absent and in some areas maintenance work is lagging.

The solution for street-lighting has to be multifold according to residents who spoke to BM highlighting different facets of the problem.

In the Pulikeshinagar area, streetlights are not safe from miscreants who seek darkness to carry out illegal activities.

“Residents complain, despite BBMP’s efficiency, miscreants have been breaking streetlights for the past two years. Near Moore Road, streetlights are constantly broken and illegal activities are rampant. Even though BBMP repairs them, they are broken again. We request police officials to conduct rounds and take action against culprits. Even inside Coles Park, streetlights get stolen

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

“BBMP needs to find some way to address budgetary delay and quickly fix the gap in street lighting
— Sandeep Anirudhan, Whitefield Ward Committees Group

Corridors of wildlife

‘Draft wildlife corridor improvement policy aimed at restoring connectivity of fragmented habitats’

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Taking into account increasing human-wildlife conflict cases and need for better wildlife conservation, the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has rolled out a draft wildlife corridor improvement policy. The policy is aimed at restoring the connectivity of fragmented habitats and improving existing corridors to enhance wildlife conservation.

According to officials from KFD, the draft policy has been submitted to the state government, and a decision on it will be taken soon after the general elections in the state.

“From the conservation point of view, it is extremely important to ensure that the fragmented forest patches are reconnected. The policy has been framed keeping the larger interest of conservation in mind. Moreover, we are not looking at just elephant corridors, but for all other animals too. Once approved, the government will notify the policy from time to time based on specific corridors. Improvement strategies strengthening corridors with or without changing land ownership shall be formulated,” said Kumar Pushkar, assistant principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), KFD.

“Land acquisition is a costly affair and this along with many other aspects has to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Farmers' resilience

Vikalp Bengaluru, in collaboration with Bangalore International Centre, presents "Chardi Kala - An Ode to Resilience" by Prateek Shekhar, a film that observes, listens and documents the farmers' comprehensive arguments, their acts of selfless service, and the spirit of eternal optimism that imbued this grassroots-led movement as it made history. Inspired by their everyday resilience, Chardi Kala follows the journey of the farmers' protest until their victory.
Where: Bangalore International Centre
When: May 1, 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm

02 Eternal voices

Spend a lovely evening of music with Prahlad Prasad, Rujuta Prabhu, and Aishwarya Kasinathan as they take you back to the evergreen scores of eternal singers of the era. After 18 successful concerts in Bengaluru and other cities in India, Prahlad Mira Academy brings to you a melodious evening, celebrating the magic of the golden voices of legendary Hemanth Kumar, Kishore Kumar, and Manna Dey. Relive the memories once again.
Where: MLR Convention Centre, JP Nagar
When: May 4, 5:45 pm

03 Groove to the beats

Experience the electrifying energy and captivating performances of "Band Capricio" live on stage as they put on a spectacular showcase of talent that will leave you mesmerised. Get ready to groove to the beats of the band, bringing you the best of contemporary sounds and infectious rhythms.
Where: Sunburn Union
When: May 3, 7 pm

'Schools cannot refuse TCs to students under RTE Act'

Students cannot be denied admissions, or any other facilities, says NCPCR

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The tussle between some parents and school management at the beginning or end of the academic year has become routine. The school management has been using transfer certificates (TC) as a weapon to exploit the parents who could not clear arrears on fees. The parents somehow manage to clear the fee arrears, as they are under the impression that the TC is a must for their children to get admission to other schools. However, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has made it clear that no school can refuse to provide TCs for children under the Right to Education (RTE) Act 2009.

In a reply to an RTI application submitted by Ajay Merchant of Bengaluru, the Chief Public Information Officer of NCPCR said that a child has a right to transfer to any school. "Under the RTE Act 2009, no school can refuse to provide TC to children falling under the category as laid down in the Act. Therefore, for the purpose of getting a child transferred to another school, parents can make a request to the head teacher or in-charge of school as per the provisions laid down under Section 5 of the Act," said Ramesh Samyal, Senior Consultant (Admin) & CPIO.

Merchant said that for years, private, unaided schools have been exploiting lakhs of students and parents across the country on an annual basis. These schools hike their fees arbitrarily year-on-year without any reasonable and fair justification, then use TCs as a trump card to bully parents and students into submission.

> **"I urge the parents to give a written complaint to the respective block education officer if the schools refuse to give the transfer certificates**
>
> –Nagasimha G Rao, director , Child Rights Trust

He further said that schools compel the parents to pay up quietly or else unjustly withhold their TCs until full payment is received, despite various higher court orders stating that coercive action cannot be taken against students and they cannot be deprived of their constitutional right to education under any circumstances, including non-payment or short payment of school fees. "Parents and students, especially from middle-class families, have no say in the matter and end up suffering in silence. Now, with NCPCR's RTI reply, I believe and hope that correct and timely information will be disseminated to students and parents and empower them to stand up for their rights and demand justice. This reply now makes it very clear that schools should not deny the TC to students. Admissions or any other facilities in any school cannot be denied for lack of Aadhar card," he said.

Emphasising the need for awareness of the RTE Act among the parents, Nagasimha G Rao, director of the Child Rights Trust, said, "I urge the parents to give a written complaint to the respective block education officer if the schools refuse to give the TC. Schools are supposed to be child-friendly. If parents hesitate to lodge complaints with the competent authorities against the schools, their children have to suffer till they complete high school education. The parents must also send a copy of the complaint to the Deputy Commissioner, Child Rights Trust, and Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights for a follow-up."

Absence of bus shelter irks commuters

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File photo of people waiting for buses near Mantri Square Circle

Commuters who use the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) services around Mantri Square Circle have complained of the municipal body not reinstalling a bus shelter in the area after it was dismantled for a beautification project. While the project has been completed and a statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has been put in place, there is no sight of a bus shelter.

"What is the point of constructing an ex-prime minister's statue without including a bus shelter? The public, including senior citizens, are waiting for the bus in the heat. It is an absolute misuse of tax money," said Sreejith S Pai, a resident on platform X. Another commuter said that a major bus stop was present in the area prior to the project. "It was called the Central bus stop, as there was a theatre named Central. The bus stop has more legacy than this statue, but priorities for this government are against commuters," he added.

Frequent commuters in the area have urged the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to immediately construct a shelter in the newly beautified area in order to make their wait comfortable. "It's unbearable to wait under the scorching sun for buses. Often, the time taken for buses to arrive at the stop is unpredictable. Soon, the rainy season is also going to arrive," said a commuter, while adding that there are adequate arrangements made for seating and the area only requires an overhead shelter to protect bus commuters from harsh weather.

Bangalore Mirror had previously reported on the issue when the BBMP was digging out the white-topped road in the vicinity to carry out the beautification project. Commuters had then noted that this was done only a few weeks prior to the beautification project being taken out. Residents were fuming at BBMP for not planning their projects beforehand, as white topping is an expensive and time-consuming process.

No free lunches: Eateries feel the heat

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Heat waves are having an adverse impact on eateries in the city. Hoteliers, who have been suffering a lot due to increase in price of vegetables and shortage of water, are incurring huge losses due to the heat. They said the food business has come down by around 30 percent due to the heat wave.

"The heat waves have affected eating joints meant for middle-class people who are hesitant to visit, commuting on two-wheelers, due to the heat waves. The demand for lunch has come down drastically during these months," said Krishnaraj SP of Nisarga Grand Hotel.

He said the public do not want to take risk of visiting eateries also due to the spread of seasonal cholera in the city. "We give utmost importance to hygiene. We also provide hot water for drinking to our customers. The decrease in the number of customers has forced us to reduce the quantity of rice and other food items but we have to pay salaries for workers on time," he said.

Expressing a similar opinion, Veerendra Kamat, who owns an eatery on Avenue Road, said the footfall to his restaurant in the afternoon has come down.

SUMMERTIME SADNESS

"Most of the customers prefer to have a cool drink or fruit juice or buttermilk rather than coffee or tea. There is no demand for lunch in the afternoon. Many customers follow the advisory of the meteorological department not to go outside between 12 noon to 3 pm to prevent heat strokes," said Kamat.

Darshini hotels are the worst affected due to the heat waves that are reeling under acute shortage of water.

"The overall business of hotels in Bengaluru has come down to 25 percent to 30 percent due to the heat wave. We have to wait till the onset of the monsoon to have an increase in footfalls to the eating joints in the city," said P C Rao, president, Bruhat Bengaluru Hotels Association.

Zero rain in April has left 41-year-old record broken

For the first time this season, heat wave prediction for Bengaluru from May 1-4

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KAUSHIK JN

Bengaluru created a dubious record on Tuesday that April became the driest month in the last 41 years. Though there was rain at a few places in the city, the scattered rainfall was not recorded in any of the India Meteorological Stations.

Hence, the IMD reports it as 0 mm received in Bengaluru in April as against 180 mm of average rainfall to be received by the city in the month. The last time Bengaluru reported such low rainfall was in 1983, according to an update from Bengaluru Weather on X platform. For the first time this season, IMD has predicted heat wave conditions for Bengaluru as well.

IMD Scientist M Rajavel said, "The trough/wind discontinuity from southeast Madhya Pradesh to South Interior Karnataka across Vidarbha, Marathwada & North Interior Karnataka extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level persists. The cyclonic circulation over South Tamil Nadu & neighbourhood at 0.9 km above mean sea level persists. Hence, dry weather is very likely to prevail over remaining districts of the State."

An update from Namma Karnataka weather on X platform stated, "Today, the IMD Bengaluru recorded a temperature of 38.2°C, marking the third time this April that temperatures have reached around 38°C. The all-time records for April temperatures are as follows: the highest recorded temperature was on April 24, 2016, at 39.2°C, followed by April 28, 2024, at 38.5°C, and April 30, 1931, at 38.3°C. Today's temperature ties for the fourth-highest in April, along with April 30, 2024, at 38.2°C. Additionally, there is a tie for the fifth-highest temperature at 38.0°C, occurring on both April 27, 2024, and April 23, 2016. Over the last four days, Bengaluru has experienced temperatures of 38.0°C, 38.5°C, 37.8°C, and 38.2°C, culminating in a scorching end to an exceptionally hot month."

All eyes on May

So, can we expect any showers at least in May? The Namma Karnataka weather update said, "At 7:30 pm on Tuesday, an update revealed the resurgence of the thunderstorm season over South Kerala after a hiatus of nearly nine days.

This resurgence is a significant development. It seems that Kodagu, Chamarajanagar, and Nilgiris will experience TS rains within the next 48 hours. There is an anticipation of rain in Bengaluru post-May 5."

Rajavel said that light to moderate rain is very likely to occur over some parts of Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Kodagu, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru districts in May. Additionally, light rain is expected over some parts of Ballari, Chitradurga, Shivamogga, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru Urban, Chikkaballapura, Kolar, Mysuru, Mandya, and Chamarajanagar. He also noted that heatwave conditions are likely to prevail at isolated places in Bidar, Kalaburgi, Vijayapura, Yadgir, Raichur, Bagalkot, Belagavi, Gadag, Dharwad, Haveri, Koppal, Vijayanagara, Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumkur, Kolar, Mandya, Ballari, Hassan (Plains), Chamarajanagar, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Mysuru, Chikkamagaluru (Plains), and Chikkaballapur districts.

"The IMD Bengaluru recorded a temperature of 38.2°C, marking the third time this April that temperatures have reached around 38°C

Additionally, the heatwave is predicted to affect Bengaluru Urban on May 1, 2, 3, and 4. Warm night conditions are likely to persist over Bagalkot, Kalaburgi, and Koppal districts for the next five days. Jot and humid conditions are expected to prevail over Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttar Kannada, and Chitradurga from April 30 to May 4.

There is no large change in the maximum temperature expected over the state for the next five days. Over the next 48 hours, a mainly clear sky is expected with maximum and minimum temperatures likely to be around 38°C and 24°C, respectively in Bengaluru."

Alert Whitefield residents stall the axe, save trees from illegal cutting

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It took a few quick-thinking residents of Whitefield to stop trees from being cut down near Borewell Road and Dodsworth Layout. As soon as they noticed the trees being chopped from an area that is lush green, the residents swung into action to stop the axe.

Eyewitnesses reported that a group of workers came to the area and started cutting down the trees. They initiated the 'unauthorised tree cutting activity' on a Tuesday morning without any official approvals. The land was vacant, however, now according to the residents the land has been taken up by a builder. Promptly reacting to the alarming situation, the residents wasted no time in dialing the 112 helpline and alerted the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Karnataka Forest Department (KFD).

Keshav, a resident deeply involved in the efforts to thwart the tree cutting, recounted the events. "The BBMP officials and KFD officials came immediately and stopped the work. It was pretty instant. The people cutting the tree had to get official authorization from KFD which they didn't have."

He further added, "Then the builder was called. However, those workers cutting the tree were asked to leave."

With the swift and decisive action taken by the residents and the authorities, the damage was minimised, with only one or two trees reportedly felled.

Remarkably, several trees, including a venerable 35-40-year-old jamun tree, were spared from the chainsaw's reach. Keshav expressed hope that such iconic trees would continue to thrive unharmed.

In response to the incident, the authorities have summoned the owner of the property to take appropriate action.

"This incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of community vigilance in safeguarding our natural environment against unauthorised activities that threaten its integrity," a resident said.

Millers Road: Pavements overrun by encroachment

Hawkers and street sellers overwhelm footpaths, endangering pedestrians and worsening traffic

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bengaluru's Smart City roads were supposed to be pedestrian-friendly, with sufficient space for footpaths. However, a cursory look at some of the roads shows that even these are vulnerable to encroachment by hawkers and street sellers.

A case in point is Millers Road.

"Encroachment starts at the underbridge and near the entrance to Kings Crest, an apartment building, which is Millers Road Extension. A tea vendor has taken over the pavement. Soon after, walking up the road is a challenge. Plants, debris, etc., are major hazards for pedestrians. This is followed by stench right up to the United Theological College. Autos are parked in the area as they eat and rest there," said a senior citizen and resident.

According to commuters, food and fruit vendors have proliferated alongside the stretch at multiple points, making it difficult for pedestrians to use the footpath.

"Food vendors have proliferated further up alongside the masjid property. There was a food vendor who fed over 40 auto drivers over the years, but he had competition with others who come and go. We have lost count of the number of vendors that put up their stalls here. This aside, coconut and watermelon vendors come and go," said another resident.

Encroachment on Millers Road by fruit vendors

According to commuters, food and fruit vendors have proliferated alongside the stretch at multiple points, making it difficult for pedestrians to use the footpath

Commuters say immediate action is needed to free the pedestrian way as these encroachments also lead to traffic issues.

"Due to numerous food and fruit stalls, people on two-wheelers and four-wheelers park their vehicles haphazardly on the road and avail themselves of their services. The situation becomes risky as we have to walk almost in the middle of the road. It is a busy stretch with vehicles plying at high speed. We are risking lives," said another resident.

Locals also underline the plight of having multiple bus shelters at one spot on the stretch, further compromising footpath space.

"There are three bus stands and they serve no purpose. So many shelters have only eaten into pedestrian ways and forced walkers to get on the busy stretch. Some vendors sit close to the bus stop, making it difficult for the elderly and women to catch buses. We are single old women living in this area and do not feel safe walking on the road. However, there is not much of a pedestrian way left to navigate the stretch," said another elderly resident of the area.

How to light up city's dark spots

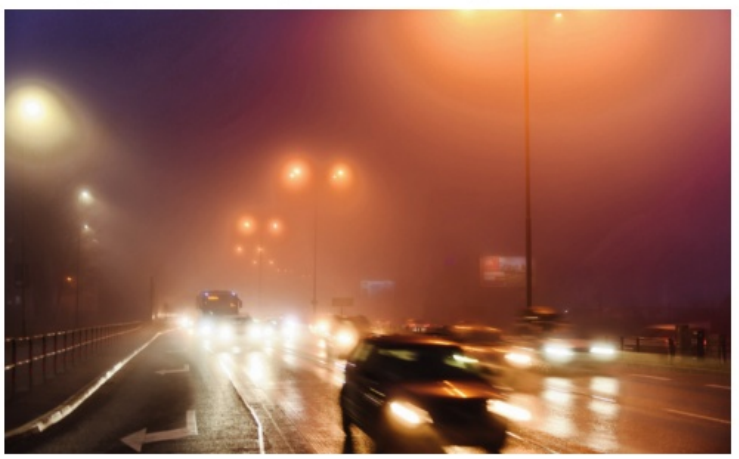
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

near the ladies' gym area. Even though these are replaced, the lights are stolen again," said Habiba Subhan, a civic activist in the area.

In the Whitefield, residents suffer from budgetary delays in installation of streetlights.

"Some places have no streetlight poles and in some areas the lights are not functional. Whenever we bring it up in ward committee meetings, they state budgetary constraints. When we raise it in the Sahaaya app, it becomes a long-term issue and never gets resolved. In areas, such as ECC Road where there are fewer functional streetlights, criminal activities such as mugging and chain-snatching are rampant. BBMP needs to find some way to address budgetary delay and quickly fix the gap in street lighting" said Sandeep Anirudhan of Whitefield Ward Committees Group.

In the Domlur, residents complained that streetlight timers don't work properly.



"The problem here lies with timers attached to streetlights. Apart from a few dysfunctional streetlights, they don't automatically switch on and switch off. They tend to be on during the daytime as well. Lights remain switched on till 11 am sometimes. The process has to be automated or corrected to avoid wastage of energy," said Vinod Jacob, a resident of Old Airport Road.

Kanakapura Road residents complained that too many streetlights are being attached to single timers leading to malfunctioning.

"The few new layouts like BCMC Layout don't have streetlights on the new roads. We have been requesting the same for the past two years; the layout was formed in 2004. In existing areas, there is an issue with the timers. Officials are adding more than 14-15 streetlights to the timers and causing them to short-circuit. They malfunction and remain on even during the day." said Srivatsa, a resident of the area.

In the highly populated Varthur area, residents complained that too many cooks are spoiling the broth amid constant blame games. "We have highlighted the issue in all ward committee meetings. In already-developed areas, there are entire stretches with no streetlights. You can see such dark spots on Varthur's main road between Varthur Kodi and Gunjur and in parts of villages in Varthur. According to BBMP, there are around three contractors who set up streetlights and are responsible for 2.5 years of maintenance. None of the contractors or BBMP take accountability for the issue. But BBMP's electrical department should take the onus of the maintenance work," said Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising.

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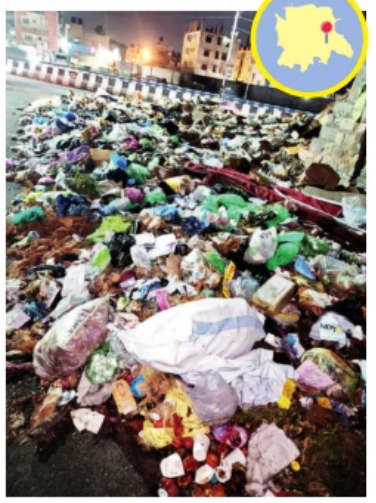
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Garbage pile up
Kadirenahalli



Despite several complaints to the BBMP, garbage continues to accumulate at the entrance of the JHBCS Layout near the Kadirenahalli flyover, resulting in a foul smell and creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Unpleasant sight
Kodibeesanahalli

The piling up of trash beside the service road in Kodibeesanahalli is creating a disgusting sight.

Smoother roads
Brunton Cross Road

The road from Primrose Road to Brunton Cross Road needs to be smoothed out to improve commuting conditions.

Boy blackmailed over online gaming, extorted

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Four individuals were arrested by the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Police, regarding the extortion of gold ornaments from underage boys, Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said on Tuesday.

According to the police, two of the accused are from Koppal District and two are from Bengaluru.

An incident reported on April 15, involved a juvenile coerced by acquaintances into stealing 600-700 grams of gold ornaments from his home, under threat of exposing his online gaming activities to his parents. The stolen items were then handed over to the suspects. Law enforcement recovered two gold biscuits weighing 302 grams and Rs 23,50,000 in cash, acquired after melting the stolen ornaments, with a total value of Rs 41,50,000.

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Furthermore, Rajarajeshwari Nagar Police apprehended a suspect on April 15, in connection with a housebreaking theft. Subsequent investigations uncovered the suspect's involvement in multiple robbery cases across various police stations in the city. Officials seized 210 grams of gold ornaments and 1,030 kilograms of silver articles, valued at Rs 13,35,000.

Officials seized 210 grams of gold ornaments and 1,030 kilograms of silver articles, valued at Rs 13,35,000

In a separate operation, the Bengaluru Central Crime Branch (CCB) detained two individuals for illegally storing and refilling household cylinders without proper licenses or safety measures in residential areas. Authorities confiscated 265 cylinders and 15 refilling rods, estimated to be worth Rs 15,00,000. A case has been lodged at Bellandur Police Station, and investigations are ongoing.

Abandoned vehicles turn roads into danger zones

Abandoned vehicles in different parts of the city

Unclaimed cars create havoc in various parts of the city, citizens demand action from authorities

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Unused, abandoned vehicles on the road are proving to be a menace for motorists. The dark roads, combined with abandoned vehicles, prove to be the perfect spot for accidents. Across the city, one can see abandoned vehicles on roads, dusted away for years. With no civic body claiming responsibility for towing them away, the vehicles cause a rise in the chances of accidents in the neighbourhood. Residents also allege that such spots also become causes for the perpetuation of illegal activities.

"Unused vehicles can be found all across Bengaluru. These vehicles are causing a lot of accidents. In the dark, vehicles can ram into these abandoned ones. Many of the vehicles are seized by EMI companies," said Ajay of Swayam Jagruti.

Abdul Shakeeb of Pulikeshi Nagar, Residents Welfare Association (RWA) also told BM they have also been suffering from the same problem and raised the issue with traffic cops.

"There are a lot of unused and abandoned vehicles that can be found in Frazer town and Robinson road areas. These vehicles become prime spots for illegal activities and physical assault. While riding in the dark, you could run into these vehicles. These vehicles are usually found on the side of main roads and reduce the carriage width. We addressed the issue with Pulikeshinagar traffic cops and they cleared a few of them. But they also raised concern that they don't have a proper yard to dump all the abandoned vehicles," he added.

In the past, police officials along with BBMP had planned on identifying such vehicles and auctioning them off. In case the owner claims the missing vehicles, they were to be handed to the owners. In the recent past, traffic officials from the South Division have also been clearing abandoned vehicles to avoid congestion on the roads.

Traffic officials say that with the reduction in the period needed for auctioning off vehicles, they will soon conduct drives. "There are many vehicles abandoned on the road. These could be vehicles seized by EMI companies and mechanic workshops. Some of them are ownerless vehicles and some are wilfully left on the road by the owners. We can either give these vehicles to BBMP for auctioning or submit them to the court and get permission for auctioning directly. Under the Karnataka Police Act, we have the provision to declare these vehicles as abandoned vehicles. We have already identified 50-60 vehicles. After the elections, we will take up a drive to remove such vehicles. We have two dump yards within Bengaluru and another one in Ramanagara which is not being used now for dumping these vehicles," said a senior traffic official.

> **These vehicles become prime spots for illegal activities and physical assault**
>
> –Abdul Shakeeb, Residents' Welfare Association, Pulikeshi Nagar

IN BRIEF

Landlord accused of raping minor

The Karnataka Police have arrested a house owner on charges of raping an 8-year-old girl when she was alone at her rented house in Madanayakanahalli Police Station limits on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Tuesday.

According to the police, the accused man committed the crime when the girl was alone and her parents had gone to work. The victim's family had moved into the house a month ago.

The victim has been admitted to Nelamangala Private Hospital and is being treated. The police have booked the accused under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Further probe is ongoing. **IANS**

Wipro's new CEO has $6mn paycheck

Wipro's new CEO Srinivas Pallia will receive an annual remuneration of up to USD 6 million (about Rs 50 crore), according to a regulatory filing by the Bengaluru-headquartered IT company.

Earlier in April, Wipro announced the appointment of Pallia as its new CEO and MD, following the sudden resignation of Thierry Delaporte. Delaporte's annual salary of over Rs 80 crore at Wipro had made headlines last year. According to a Wipro filing related to the notice of postal ballot, Pallia's remuneration will range between USD 3.5 million to USD 6 million per annum (at the lower and upper end of basic and target variable pays).

"... the consent of the members be and is hereby accorded for the appointment of Srinivas Pallia as the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the company, to hold office for a period of five years with effect from April 7, 2024 to April 6, 2029, on the terms and conditions of appointment, including payment of remuneration with effect from April 7, 2024...," the notice of postal ballot said, outlining the basic and variable elements of the remuneration. **PTI**

Prajwal 'sexual assault' case: Congress, BJP trade barbs

Case insult to state, says DKS while Pralhad Joshi questions delay in filing FIR

The Congress and the BJP continue to spar over the alleged sex video scandal involving JD-S leader Prajwal Revanna, the grandson of former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda, ahead of the third phase of Lok Sabha polls to be held on May 7.

On Tuesday, the JD-S suspended Revanna, the sitting party MP and Lok Sabha candidate from Hassan, after the Congress government in Karnataka formed a special investigation team (SIT) to probe allegations of sexual abuse against him.

Speaking to the media in Hubballi, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi questioned the state government for not lodging an FIR against Prajwal Revanna immediately after the alleged scandal came to light. "People are saying there is an internal adjustment between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and HD Revanna (JD-S MLA and father of Prajwal Revanna). The Congress is resorting to levelling allegations with utter irresponsibility. The state government is trying to pass the blame on the Centre," he said.

"There is no opposition from the BJP to the action taken by the JD-S in this regard. Neither the JD-S nor the BJP are opposed to the expulsion of Prajwal Revanna," he said, and slammed the Congress for alleging that the BJP is helping him go into hiding. "Allegations should not be levelled with an ulterior motive. If he has made a mistake, he should be punished as per the law," Joshi added.

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Members of the National Students Union of India protest against Prajwal Revanna at Maharani college on Tuesday

Congress supporters protest, detained by police

Police detained numerous Congress supporters in Bengaluru as they rallied against Prajwal Revanna on Tuesday. The protesters called for the immediate apprehension of the politician. Amidst the commotion, a confrontation ensued between supporters of the Congress and JD(S) outside a hotel where a JD(S) Core Committee meeting was in progress on Tuesday. Despite police efforts to quell the demonstration, both groups of supporters resisted. Congress supporters amassed in significant numbers on Monday, staging protests in Hubballi, Hassan, and Bengaluru. Alka Lamba, president of the All India Mahila Congress, spearheaded a demonstration outside the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee office in Bengaluru. However, police revealed that following the circulation of the videos, Revanna fled the country after casting his vote on April 26. —BMB

Meanwhile, the Congress candidate DK Suresh, told the media in Kanakapura that the case involving Prajwal is not only an insult to the Deve Gowda family but to the entire state. "This is an insult to Kannada people. The scandal needs to be condemned by all. The victims must be protected by the state women's commissio. After learning about the case, the Deve Gowda family tried to hush up the matter. Attempts were also made to threaten the victims. We have to wait and see what advice the former PM will give now," he said. —IANS

> **"If he has made a mistake, he should be punished as per the law**
>
> –Union Minister Prahlad Joshi

IN BRIEF

Blame game over leaked videos

Prajwal Revanna's former car driver Karthik and BJP leader G Devaraje Gowda accused each other of leaking the alleged sleaze videos. In a video message on social media, the driver said that he worked with Prajwal for the last 15 years, but it has been a year since he has not been with him. "The reason (for distancing from Prajwal) was that my land was taken away and my wife was beaten up. I was mentally tortured. I quit the job and started my fight (to get back land)," Karthik said in the message. He said he had approached G Devaraje Gowda for justice as he had been fighting against the Deve Gowda family.

Devaraje Gowda had fought the 2023 assembly election from Holenarasipura on the BJP ticket and lost to Revanna. In the meantime, Prajwal Revanna had brought a stay order to prevent me from releasing any sleaze photos or videos, Karthik said. "Devaraje Gowda told me to hand over the photos and videos that he promised to hand over to the judge to help vacate the stay. Other than him, I did not give this video to Congress or others. I did not give it to Congress leaders because they were quite close to Prajwal. Hence, I approached Devaraje Gowda, but he too cheated me," the driver alleged.

Rejecting the charges, Devaraje Gowda told reporters here in Bengaluru that Karthik had been hanging around with the Congress LS candidate from Hassan, Shreyas Patel. He said that neither the JD(S) nor the BJP would release the videos as it would go against the NDA alliance's candidate. If there was someone benefiting from this, it was Congress. He said he is waiting for the SIT to serve him a notice wherein he will release important documents. —PTI

BM Education

Set up district-level panels to combat ragging: UGC

Despite stringent measures, the issue of ragging persists in colleges. The University Grants Commission has taken action by sending a letter to the Chief Secretary (CS), urging the establishment of district-level committees. In a circular, Manish Joshi, the commission's secretary, stated that these committees should conduct preparatory meetings during summer vacation. Their purpose is to assess the readiness of each institution and ensure compliance with the policies, directions, and guidelines of relevant bodies, whether university, state, or central authorities. The composition of the committee will include the Deputy Commissioner, the head of the concerned university or college, the Superintendent of Police, the Additional District Magistrate, representatives from the local media and NGOs, representatives from student organisations, as well as local police and administration officials.

Earlier, Visvesvaraya Technological University had installed hostels with CCTvs to check ragging. A senior official said that all the hostels in engineering colleges in the state were given instructions to have CCTVs. "We always wanted to have this facility but could not. This comes in the backdrop of increased attacks on women. Though we don't have any such incidents in engineering colleges, we believe that prevention is better. Sometime back, even UGC suggested this move so that incidents like ragging could be curbed. So, with the cameras, we believe that both ragging and attacks on girls can be curbed." The varsity initially wanted the cameras all across the campus. However, it was found not feasible, and hence only the hostels were equipped with them. However,

File photo of anti ragging signboard at a college

orders were given that the cameras should not be in sensitive areas like washrooms and others. Instead, they can be mounted at the main gate and other areas to record visitors' movements.

Officials said that they were taking adequate measures to ensure no violation of privacy. However, students had a different opinion. A student said, "Cameras were fine, but the big question was who would watch the content. Only women wardens, women principals, or lady lecturers should be entitled, not others. Other students believe that the varsity should ask the colleges to improve internet connectivity and not go for cameras, which were mere show-offs and served no purpose."

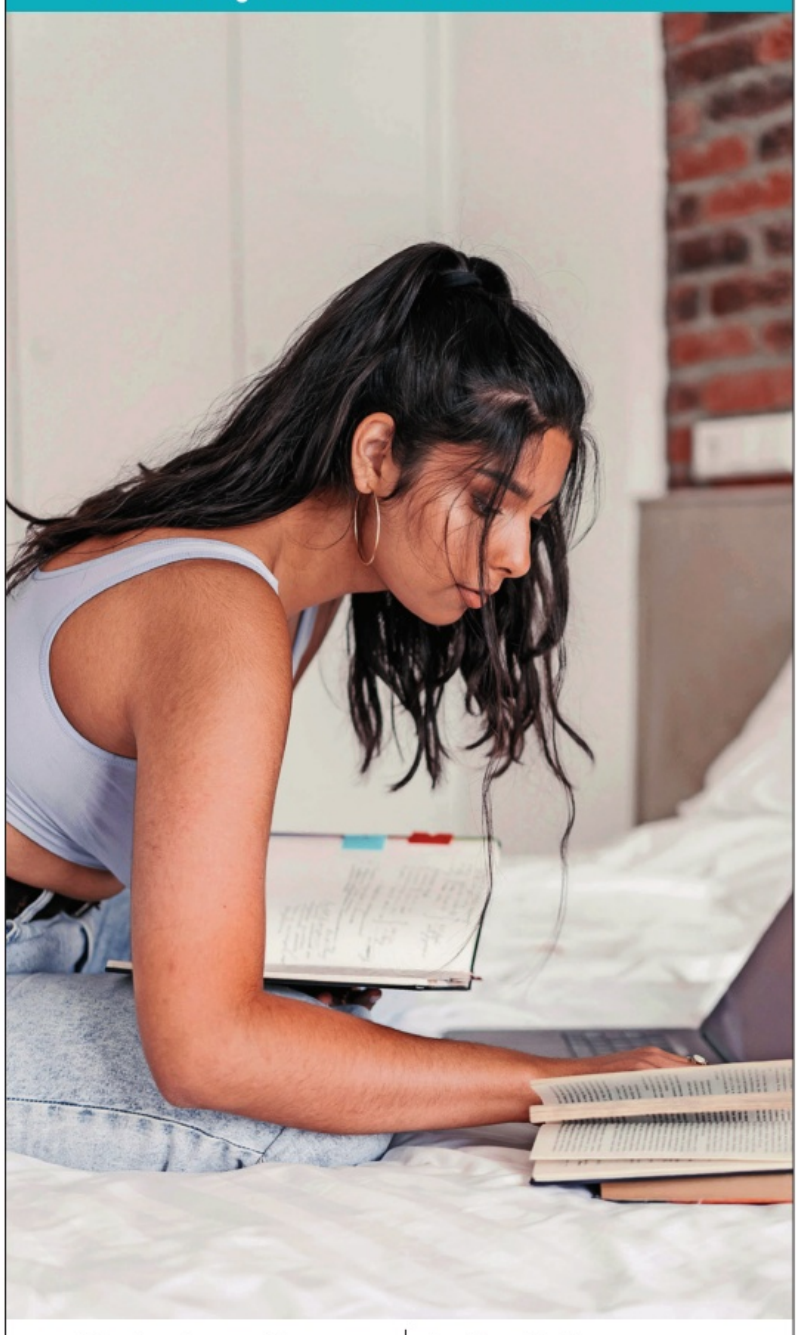
Earlier, Karnataka was asked to abolish seat-leaving bonds by the National Medical Commission (NMC), which advocates for discontinuing such policies in medical colleges. The focus is on fostering a supportive environment for students. The NMC's Anti-Ragging Committee, noting the rising levels of stress, anxiety, and depression among medical students, especially postgraduate students, has suggested alternative measures to replace traditional seat-leaving bond policies. —Sridhar Vivan

HEALTH TIP: Instead of seeking external validation, align your actions with your core values and beliefs

A glass of milk can keep fatal diseases like high blood pressure and the possibility of having a stroke at bay

READ THE ROOM

Gen Zers and millennials are still big fans of books – even if they don't call themselves 'readers'



Identifying with an activity is different from actually doing it.

For example, 49% of Americans play video games, but only 10% identify as gamers.

According to a recent survey we conducted, there's also a small gap between reading activity and identity for younger readers: 61% of Generation Z and millennials have read a print book, e-book or audiobook in the past 12 months, but only 57% identify as readers.

And yet there was a puzzling aspect of our results: The 43% of Gen Z and millennials who didn't identify as readers actually said they read more print books per month than Gen Z and millennials overall.

In other words, young people who don't identify as readers are reading books at a higher rate than their generational cohorts as a whole.

Why?

Our best guess is that "reader" is an identity, not a behavior. And that identity is buttressed by involvement in book clubs, engagement with social media communities such as Booktok and Bookstagram, and access to libraries and bookstores.

Building bookish communities

Identities of reader, writer and fan seem to reinforce each other.

Millennials and members of Gen Z who identify as readers are also more likely to be writers and participate in fandom.

Community is key to all of these identities. For example, two of the top reasons millennials and members of Gen Z identify as fans are the fact that they're "part of a fan community" and are able to "meet others like me."

Every August, the Edinburgh Book International Book Festival in Scotland – the largest book festival in the world – puts on an entire month of events around books, authors and readers.

During the 2023 event, which we attended, you could see attendees clamoring to see writers like Alice Oseman, author of the bestselling "Heartstopper" graphic novels.

We heard fans waiting in that line talking about how Oseman's series featured the first queer characters they'd encountered in a book. Readers came to the festival with friends and family, and made new friends and connections at the event. The passion was palpable.

What 'counts' as reading

But does a graphic novel like "Heartstopper" even count as "real" reading?

If the National Endowment for the Arts definitions from the early 2000s are to be believed, then no – unless it's reading literature for leisure, it must not be "real" reading.

And some millennials and members of Gen Z may believe that the reading they are doing isn't real reading. But a narrow definition of what counts as reading ignores the love Gen Zers and millennials have for content such as graphic novels, manga and comics.

In our study, 59% said they would prefer a graphic version of a story over text-only. And let's not forget audiobooks, which 34% of Gen Zers and millennials prefer over text-only. Millennials and members of Gen Z are also reading nonfiction or reading for school and work, rather than pleasure.

In a separate study from 2020, we found that 83% of American readers read books for reasons other than entertainment, such as school, work or self-improvement.

What makes a reader?

More Gen Z and millennial women identify as readers, so there could be gender differences at play: Perhaps young men, no matter how much they read, are hesitant to closely identify with an activity they see as the purview of women.

Socioeconomic status may also factor into whether someone feels they can claim a readerly identity. Gen Zers and millennials who didn't identify as readers were less likely to have a job in the past 12 months and earned less money.

So it turns out that identifying as a reader is often about community, wealth and gender – and what counts as reading – than it is about how much someone actually reads.

Perhaps there can be an effort to broaden the definition of "reading" – yes, audiobooks and comics count – and to build bookish communities beyond places such as Bookstagram and BookTok. And being a reader can be more than loving classic literature, though certain social media trends, such as "Reading Like Rory" – a BookTok phenomenon centered on the literary classics read by Rory Gilmore of "Gilmore Girls" – amounted to just that.

If young people were to see being a reader as simply enjoying and engaging with stories, how many of them would start to call themselves readers after all?

(Kathi Inman Berens and Rachel Noorda, Portland State University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Healthy lifestyle could counter genetic risk of shorter life, says study

Adopting a healthy lifestyle could counter the effects of life-shortening genes by more than 60 per cent, according to new research published in the British Medical Journal Evidence-Based Medicine.

Researchers found four factors to make up the most favourable lifestyle combination -- not smoking, regular physical activity, adequate nightly sleep, and a healthy diet.

The team, including researchers from Zhejiang University School of Medicine, China, found that while genes and lifestyle together impact a person's lifespan, an unhealthy lifestyle could heighten the risk of dying prematurely by 78 per cent, regardless of their genetic inclinations.

However, "the genetic risk of a shorter lifespan or premature death might be offset by a favourable lifestyle by approximately 62 per cent", the authors wrote.

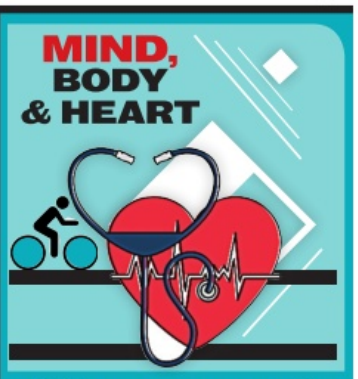
The researchers analysed the data of more than 3.5 lakh adults, recruited to the UK Biobank between 2006 and 2010, and whose health was tracked up until 2021. Each participant's genetic predisposition to longer or shorter lifespan was arrived at using polygenic risk score (PRS). Lifestyle factors including diet and sleep habits were also studied.

The authors found that starting a healthy lifestyle at the age of 40 years could enhance life expectancy by roughly 5.5 years in those having a high genetic risk of a shorter lifespan.

They added that given how lifestyle habits tend to be cemented before middle age, measures taken to address the effects of life-shortening genes are needed before then.

The researchers also found that regardless of lifestyle, individuals having genes favouring a shorter lifespan were 21 per cent more likely to die early than those having genes favouring a long life.

Further, the combination of life-shortening genes and unfavourable lifestyle could place an individual twice as likely to die compared to one having both long-life genes and a favourable lifestyle. **— PTI**



All you need to know about...

Remedies for skin

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Aloe vera is a time-tested remedy for soothing sunburned skin. Its anti-inflammatory properties help reduce redness and irritation while providing a cooling sensation. Apply pure aloe vera gel directly to the affected areas for instant relief.

Cucumber
Cucumbers have cooling properties that can help soothe overheated skin. Place few chilled cucumber slices on sunburned or irritated skin to reduce inflammation and refresh your complexion.

Oatmeal Baths
If your skin is feeling itchy and irritated from insect bites or heat rash, an oatmeal bath can provide relief. Simply grind oats into a fine powder and add it to a warm bath. Soak for 15-20 minutes to calm itching and soothe inflamed skin.

Coconut Oil
Coconut oil is a versatile remedy for dry, parched skin. Rich in fatty acids, it penetrates deep into the skin to moisturise and nourish. Apply coconut oil liberally to damp skin after showering to lock in moisture and keep your skin soft and supple.

Green Tea
Green tea is packed with antioxidants that help protect the skin from UV damage and reduce inflammation. Brew a strong cup of green tea, let it cool, and then apply it to your skin using a cotton pad as a refreshing toner.

Watermelon
Stay hydrated from the inside out by indulging in juicy watermelon. This hydrating fruit is rich in vitamins A, C, and antioxidants, which help keep your skin plump, smooth, and radiant.

—Femina

SC dismisses L&T's plea challenging tender of Sharavathi power project

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea by engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro Ltd challenging the short-term tender floated for the construction of the Rs 8,000-crore Sharavathi pumped storage power project in Karnataka.

A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra upheld the April 25 order of the Karnataka High Court that had also declined the petition by L&T against the tender by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL).

"We are not inclined to entertain the Special Leave Petition under Article 136 of the Constitution of India. The Special Leave Petition is accordingly dismissed," the bench said.

The engineering and construction major had said in its appeal that the tender process for the project had been run in an arbitrary, perverse and unreasonable manner.

In its order, the high court had said, "Electro-mechanical and hydro-mechanical works are admittedly an integral part of the project and the petitioner, being only a civil contractor, was not eligible to perform the work unless it could find association of a specialised agency.

"The submission that the appellant was unable to enter into a contract with any of such agencies finds factual justification, for the petitioner could not show that it had an expert agency as a partner to enter into the memorandum of understanding." **PTI**

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Pant, Samson included, KL Rahul misses out

Rohit Sharma to lead India in T20 World Cup, Hardik Pandya his deputy

Members of India's 19-member squad for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup 2024

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced India's 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, which will be hosted in the West Indies and USA, starting on June 1.

Rohit Sharma will lead India in the showpiece tournament, while Hardik Pandya will be his deputy.

India have added two wicket-keepers, including Rishabh Pant and Sanju Samson, to their squad. Star batter Virat Kohli, who has been slamming runs in the ongoing IPL 2024 has also been added into the squad.

Pant is set to make a comeback to team India, around 16 months after meeting with a car crash on the Delhi-Dehradun highway in Uttarakhand in 2022. India have opted for four spinners Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal to their squad.

> **"At the international level, sometimes you need a bit of luck and if this Indian team has just that little bit, then I'm very confident the Cup will come back to India** –Sunil Gavaskar, cricketer

Among the notable inclusion is Yuzvendra Chahal, who was named in the team for a T20 World Cup for the very first time.

India will head into the tournament with the powerful pace attack led by Jasprit Bumrah with Arshdeep Singh and Mohammed Siraj adding more boost. Samson got a place in the 15-member squad while the selectors overlooked wicket-keeper batter KL Rahul and Rinku Singh.

Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan have been named as reserved players.

India will begin their World Cup campaign against Ireland on June 05, 2024, at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, New York, followed by the marquee clash against Pakistan on June 09, 2024 at the same venue. India will then play USA and Canada on June 12 and 15 respectively.

India are placed in Group A of the tournament alongside arch-rivals Pakistan, Ireland, Canada and co-hosts USA. Their campaign begins on 5 June against Ireland at the newly-constructed Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in New York before they take on Pakistan in one of the most awaited matches of the upcoming T20 World Cup.

Squad: Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya (Vice Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (WK), Sanju Samson (WK), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj.

Reserves: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed and Avesh Khan. **-ANI**

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Fragmented forest patches can be linked

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be taken into consideration when we talk about corridor restoration. Moreover, corridors are a dynamic concept, especially in case of elephants. However, we have identified a few corridors for improvement and to facilitate movement of the wildlife," said SK Malkhede, principal chief conservator of forests, wildlife, and chief wildlife warden, KFD.

Wildlife conservationists said the corridor policy is a great initiative and the department must consider improving green cover and removing disturbance from these areas. Many important corridors in the state are under threat due to illegal encroachment and violations of eco-sensitive zone rules. However, they are of the view that securing more private land to widen every corridor may become a risky proposition for the department.

"KFD should focus on removing encroachments such as illegal farmlands and bore wells from wildlife corridors as part of this policy. The department should look at preserving important corridors, instead of creating new ones. Wildlife movement is always dynamic and the idea of buying land to expand or create new corridors might fall flat in time. For instance, a highway passes through nearly 500 metres of a corridor in BRT Tiger Reserve. Such areas should be identified and brought under KFD. Highways in such important corridors should be diverted. Similarly, Kaniyanpura – Moyar, Moyar – Avarahalla, Kalmalai – Singara, and Avarahalla are some existing corridors that should be strengthened," said Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher at the Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

A highway passes through a stretch of a corridor in BRT Reserve

The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MOEF&CC), in association with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), had recently identified nine elephant corridors in Karnataka and underlined that one corridor required immediate restoration to facilitate the movement of elephants.

These nine corridors are: Kaniyanpura-Moyar (in Karnataka), Beguru-Brammangiri (interstate - Karnataka and Kerala), Edayahalli-Doddasampige (in Karnataka), Edayahalli-Guttiyalattur (interstate - Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), Chamarajanagar-Talamalai at Punjur (interstate - Karnataka and Tamil Nadu), Chamarajanagar-Talamalai at Muddahalli (interstate - Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), Karadikkal-Madeshwara (in Karnataka), Tali-Bilikkan (interstate -Tamil Nadu and Karnataka), Bilikkal-Javalagiri (interstate - Tamil Nadu and Karnataka).

The ministry recommended that seven of the nine corridors should be notified by KFD so they are legally protected from encroachment and development activities, which can be detrimental to wildlife.

For the remaining two corridors, the ministry has suggested eviction of encroached areas and habitat improvements, including removing invasive species, creating waterholes, and establishing fodder plots.

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

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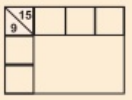
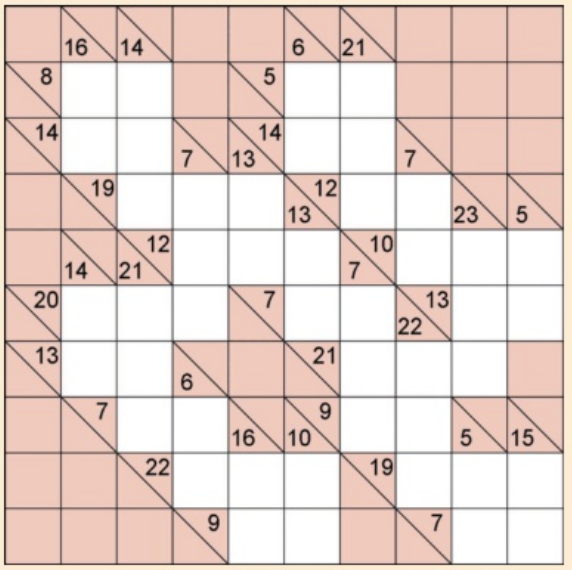
Kakuro

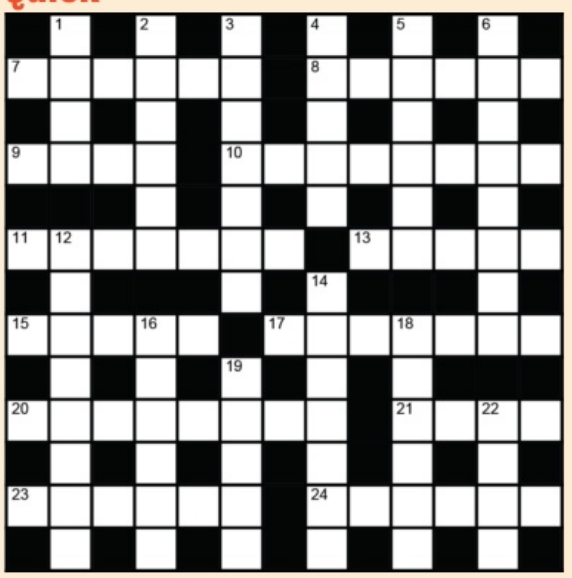


The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Government office (6)
8 Tom Clancy 's The __ __ honour (4,2)
9 Bard of Avon, abbr. (4)
10 Diagnose; recognise (8)
11 Reduced (7)
13 Notions (5)
15 Revises copy (5)
17 Allegiance (7)
20 Underground tunnel or cave (8)
21 Popular pub in Indira Nagar (4)
23 Counsel or opinion (6)
24 Early Dutch navigator (6)

DOWN

1 ___ up : keep secret? (4)
2 Jeer a public speaker (6)
3 Gas giant in our solar system (7)
4 Stranger (5)
5 Subsided like storm (6)
6 Piled high (of hairstyle) (8)
12 Veterans (3,5)
14 Fights (7)
16 Very sad - involving death or destruction (6)
18 Testify or give as proof (6)
19 Wealth (5)
22 Tehran's locale (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS G

HAUAUVAH YDCY YDAHA QZ FNYDQFB ZYCVTA QF DEUCF CKKCQHZ; YDAHAKNHA CJNQX EFXEA ATCYQNF QF MHNZ-MAHQYO, NH EFXEA XAM-HAZZQNF QF CXJAHZQYO.

Linemaro

Put down that jamoon... you are sweet enough already

Mindchow

You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think

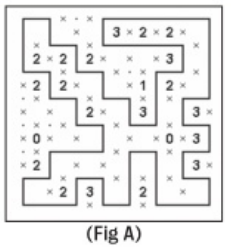
Joke of the day

Toothache: The pain that drives you to extraction

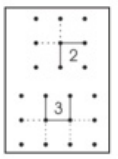
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

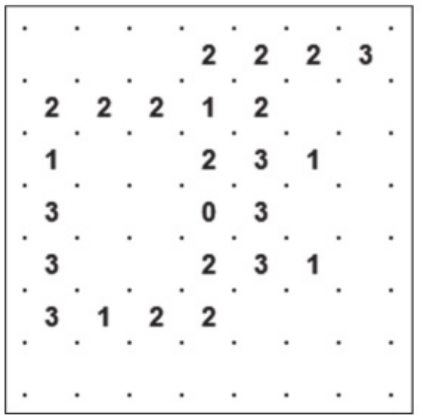


(Fig B) Not Allowed

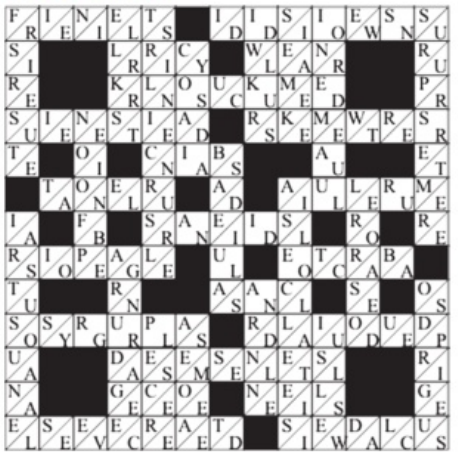
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6			C	
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Trays; 6 Citer;
7 Irons; 8 An net;
9 Pagan

DOWN

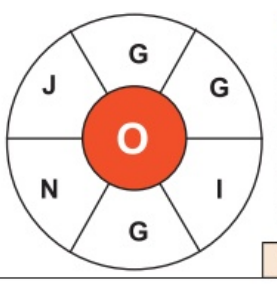
1 Parts; 2 On art;
3 Siren; 4 CIG an;
5 Yen at

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

105, 87, ?, 52, 35

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	1	8				7	4	
9								8
	2		3		6		5	
	5	1	7		3	4	8	
	7	3	6		2	5	1	
	4		2		8		3	
1								4
	3	7				8	6	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

2 4 7 8

Medium = 24

3 3 6 7

Hard = 6

1 3 7 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

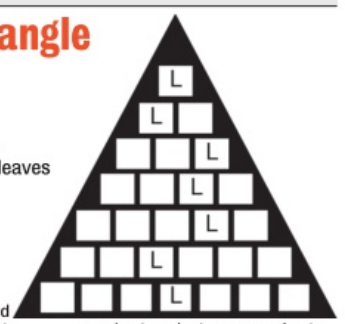
Differences: 1. Brick is missing, 2. Finger is moved. 2. Rock is larger. 3. Board is added. 4. Cap is different. 5. Cup is missing. 6. Collar is added.

Riddler

Which number does not belong? 1. 681751 2. 792944 3. 803842 4. 832459 5. 971186

Alpha triangle

1 XXV + XXV
2 'Behold!'
3 The sun
4 Smooths
5 Fencing weapons
6 Individual paper leaves
7 Daft



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Your exorcism payment was 60 days late, so the demon was sent back into your body.
REPOSSESSED
BIZARRO.COM
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

HERMAN, IT'S BEEN A WEEK! WHEN DO WE STOP WITH THE TRICKS AND GET INTO REAL MAGIC?
YOU SEEM TO BE REALLY INTERESTED IN THE PARANORMAL ASPECT OF THIS. NOT THE ENTERTAINMENT.
WELL, YEAH! I THOUGHT WE'D MAKE OUR WAY UP TO TRANSFORMATIONS AFTER DISAPPEARING RABBITS.
THE ONLY ANIMALS I HAVE ARE RUBBER CHICKENS.

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, some dissatisfaction may come into your mind; you may feel lazy and dull, which affects your current speed of the project or work in terms of delay. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of interviews.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your internal power may make you happy, and you may make short-term gains in terms of investments. You may have a good relationship with your boss and have some promotions. Your prestige in society may be increased. You may also expect some work-related travel.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be blessed by the moon. Your performance at work may improve, and you may get a high position after your hard work. You may also meet some influential people who may give you a good direction to improve your life. You may manage your domestic issues very easily, which may boost harmony in domestic life.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may be happy, and things may be somehow better. You may plan to visit some religious place, and it may give you inner strength. You may also donate some money there or to charity. You may expect some overseas travel in terms of education or work. Couples may find a suitable match. Singles are likely to find a soulmate.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel unhappy and dull, which affects your way of working. There may be some delay in the completion of your projects, which may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic lives. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rush driving. Lovebirds may break up. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of a new job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control, and you may plan to start a new business as a partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel as well. You will have faith in your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may perform your best in the office. You may have a good bond with the boss, and you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. You may get good incentives for your work as well. Chronic health issues may be cured, and disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. A job seeker may find a new job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, kids's education may make you busy; you may plan for their higher studies as well. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may want to update yourself and make some plans for higher studies to get promoted in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Natives related to education, consulting, and banking will do better.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may feel dissatisfaction and may not be able to take on your responsibilities. Your investments may cause you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature on them. Elderly health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, but it is advised to postpone renovation for a while

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be busy at work, your network may be increased, and with its help, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are also likely to start innovating in partnership. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase your business in the near future.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be busy with your family, you may feel happy to enjoy time with family or friends, and you may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may control your expenditures on worthless stuff. You may buy some worthwhile things, which may increase your social status.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, an elder's blessing may help you, and you may try to improve your patience. You may be focused on your goals and achieve them. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life. There may be some balance between expenditures and savings, which may boost your savings.

KIDZONE

Mayura M, 12 years, GMP School

Likith S, SSM Public School

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(49^0.5/10-6)^4 + 49=
(49^1/2 - 6)^4 + 49 =
(7 - 6)^4 + 49 =
(1)^4 + 49 =
1 + 49 = 50

BULL'S EYE
going, gong, jingo, JOGGING, join

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
70: the sequence progresses -18, -17, -18, -17.

QUOTE UNCODE
Remember that there is nothing stable in human affairs; therefore avoid undue elation in prosperity, or undue depression in adversity.

SUDOKU

3	1	8	9	2	5	7	4	6
9	6	5	1	7	4	3	2	8
7	2	4	3	8	6	9	5	1
6	5	1	7	9	3	4	8	2
4	9	2	8	5	1	6	7	3
8	7	3	6	4	2	5	1	9
1	8	6	5	3	7	2	9	4
5	4	9	2	6	8	1	3	7
2	3	7	4	1	9	8	6	5

ALPHA TRIANGLE
L, Lo, Sol, Olls, Folls, Follos, Foollsh.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 8 - 2 - 7 = 3
Medium
3 x 7 - 3 + 6 = 24
Hard
3 + 7 - 3 - 1 = 6

KAKURO

RIDDLER
2. The middle number is obtained by subtracting the two first digits and the last two digits.

FAST FIVE

S	T	R	A	Y
T	R	I	C	E
R	O	S	I	N
A	N	E	N	T
P	A	N	G	A

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The full ensemble— Kareena Kapoor Khan has set the internet on fire with her latest photoshoot, where she adorned an Anarkali suit, earning praise from fans who called her the 'original Mastani'

'Happy to act with nephew'

Vijaya Raghavendra who plays a psychologist in Kannada movie Grey Games that intends to throw some light on the ill-effects of virtual games says he did not consult or meet a psychologist for guidance.

"Grey Games is a psychological thriller. I did not meet a psychologist to know how he interacts with patients. Some people told me that I look like a psychologist and some others on the sets were convinced that I can act as a psychologist after seeing me in my attire," said Vijaya Raghavendra.

He said that he could not say no to acting in Grey Games when director Gangadhar Salimath narrated the script to him. "The script is very interesting. The movie aims to convey a message to parents about the need to spend quality time with their children to prevent their children from becoming addicted to virtual

games," he said.

He said he was happy to share screen space with his nephew Jai who plays a professional gamer in the movie. "It was very interesting to act with Jai who makes his debut after getting the necessary training in acting," he said.

Grey Games has two heroines – Bhavana Rao and Shruthi Prakash. "The movie has song sequences and heroines. Who is paired opposite me is a suspense till the movie is released," he said.

There is a demand from his fans that he should try to play different roles in movies. When asked whether he has fulfilled his fans' demand with Grey Games, he said: "As of now I succeeded in meeting the director's expectations. My fans will come to know whether I met their expectations after the release of this movie".

Grey Games is bankrolled by Anand Mugad under the banner of DEES Films. He has written the script for this movie that is directed by Gangadhar Salimath. It has got a UA certificate from the Censor Board of Film Certification and is scheduled for release on May 10.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

Ethereal ethnic

Get a peek into Bhumi Pednekar's contemporary ethnic looks to revamp your wardrobe

Watch this story come alive by pointing your phone camera at the QR code

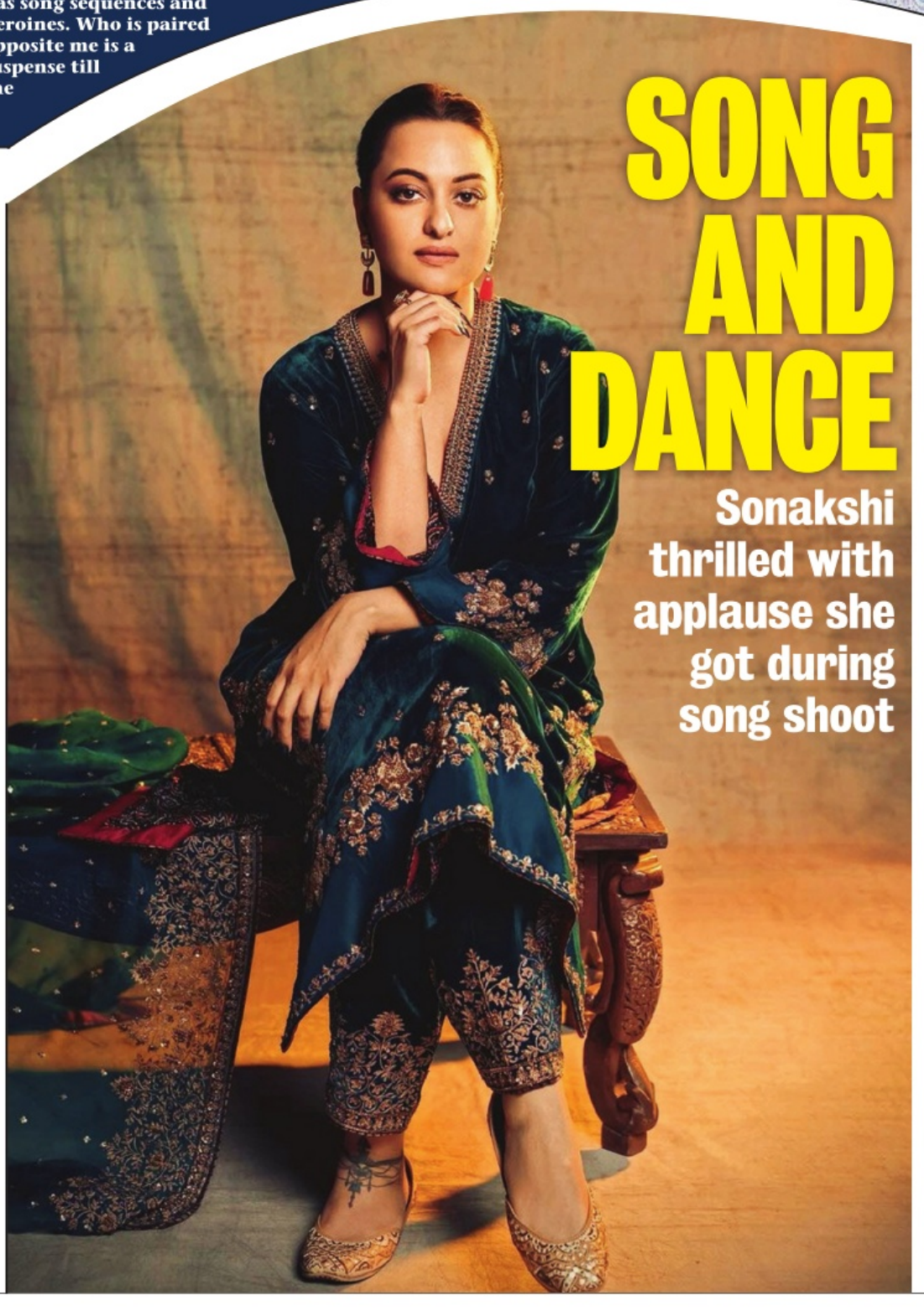
Love is a 2-way street

Actress Richa Chadha who previously collaborated with the ace filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali in the 2013 blockbuster 'Goliyon Ki Rasleela: Ram Leela' is all set to steal the show with her upcoming collaboration with him, 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazar'. While talking about her OTT project, Richa also shed light about her views on love an in interview recently and revealed that she would not want to be in a one-sided love relationship.

During an interview with News18, she provides a glimpse into her experience working with the esteemed director and the fascinating character she portrays. Richa revealed how her personal life had been strengthened by her husband Ali Fazal's 'loving' nature.

She expressed, "I love fiercely, but it will never be one-sided. I wouldn't waste my time on that. I wouldn't even waste my time wanting a if I didn't have a partner as loving, understanding, and easy on the eyes as I do. I would never take to the bottle. I do love passionately and like a tigress, but it has to be reciprocated."

—ETimes



SONG AND DANCE

Sonakshi thrilled with applause she got during song shoot

After gaining praise for her role in the crime thriller series "Dahaad," made by Reema Kagti and Zoya Akhtar, Sonakshi Sinha is returning to streaming with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's "Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar." The series tells the story of courtesans living in the red-light district of Heera Mandi in Lahore during pre-independence India. Sonakshi portrays Fareedan, a character she described as slightly negative.

The actress has also been excited for her first ever Sanjay Leela Bhansali song 'Tilasmi Bahein'. Describing the experience on it, she revealed during an interview that the entire choreography of the song was changed at the last minute. She told Hindustan Times, "I had rehearsed for something completely different and we had kept four days aside to shoot that particular song. We went for the shoot on the first day and we shot for a few hours and I did the choreography which was planned. Suddenly he got up and was like, 'I don't want to do this! I want to shoot the whole song in one take and let us design it right now!' That's when it happened so I had no time to prepare. I had to learn the lyrics right there..."

She further added that she was feeling a lot of pressure because it was her first Bhansali song. More so, because she had never done a one-shot song in her entire career. "But I love performing and when the camera comes on, I become the character. We did four takes but the take that you see is the first take that we did," revealed Sonakshi.

Sonakshi expressed astonishment at the remarkable occurrence, describing the day as truly magical. She remarked that she still finds it unbelievable, and after completing the first take, the entire set erupted into applause, with even Sanjay sir showing great joy and excitement, a sight she had never witnessed before.

—ETimes